

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 H-02

NSC-05 SCCT-01 SY-05 AID-05 DHA-02 CU-02 /089 W

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R 231404Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4195

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

DIA WASH DC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

USIA WASHDC

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 2454

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CY

SUBJ: CYPRIOT BROADCASTING BANS ANTI-AMERICAN "SONG OF THE FREE"

REF: NICOSIA 2435 (DTG 201356Z AUG 76)

1. PRO-CLERIDES DAILES SIMERINI AND AGON CARRIED NEWS STORIES
AUGUST 21 THAT CYPRIOT HIT RECORD "SONG OF THE FREE" HAD BEEN
BANNED FROM BROADCAST BY GOC-CONTROLLED RADIO-TV STATION CBC.
LYRICOS OF SONG WERE WRITTEN BY DOROS LOIZOU, POET AND EDEK-
ASSOCIATE, SHORTLY BEFORE HE WAS KILLED BY UNKNOWN GUNMEN
DURING 1974 ATTEMPT ON EDEK-LEADER LYSSARIDES' LIFE. LOIZOU
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HAS BECOME HERO AND MARTYR OF THE LEFT AND HIS SONG WAS

REPEATEDLY BEEN SUNG AT ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATIONS AND RIOTS. ON OF TSONG'S LINES SAYS, "I SHALL BURN THE EMBASSY OF DEATH;" THIS IS GENERALLY INTERPRETED HERE TO BE REFERENCE TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY.

2. AUGUST 22 PHILELEFTHEROS, WHICH REFLECTS GOC ATTITUDES, CARRIED NEWS STORY WHICH CLAIMED SONG WAS BANNED AFTER PERSISTENT DEMARCHES TO VARIOUS PERSONS BY AMERICANS, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD. PAPER CLAIMED AMERICAN "BLACKMAIL" MARKEDLY INCREASED FOLLOWING DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST EMBASSY EARLIER THIS YEAR AND CBC FINALLY GAVE IN TO PRESSURE WHEN AT LAST WEEK'S TRIAL OF DEMONSTRATORS ONE OF THE ACCUSED DESCRIBED AMERICAN EMBASSY AS "EMBASSY OF DEATH." (REFTEL) PRO-LYSSARIDES TA NEA CHARGED U.S. AMBASSADOR HAD PRESSURED MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AS WELL AS CBC, AND SAID THIS "CONSTITUTES UNPRECEDENTED SCANDAL OF INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF CYPRUS AND CREATES QUESTION OF MORAL ORDER." PRO-LYSSARIDES WEEKLY ANEXARTITOS AUGUST 23 IN EDITORIAL CALLED BANNING "INADMISSIBLE ACTION" AND CALLED AMBASSADOR "INTOLERABLY AUDACIOUS."

3. ON AUGUST 23 CBC ASSISTANT DIRECTOR JADJJOSEPH MADE UNEXPECTEDCOURTESY CALL ON CHARGE'. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM CHARGE', HE EXPLAINED THAT CBC DIRECTOR CHRISPTOPHEDES, WHO HAD MADE DECISION ON SONG, HAD LEFT CYRPUS ON HOLIDAY AUGUST 21. INTER ALIA HADJJOSPEH STATED THAT ALTHOUGH AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD HAD MENTIONED SONG TO CHRISOTPHIDES AND MINISTER OF INTERIOR VENIAMIN, DECISION TO BAN SONG WAS TAKEN SOLELY AS RESULT OF LAST WEEK'S TRIAL WHICH CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VIOLENCE AND "SONG OF THE FREE." HE REGRETTED CURRENT SPATE OF PUBLICITY AND PREDICTED IT WOULD DIE DOWN SHORTLY. ACCORDING TO HADJJOSPEH CBC WILL NOT COMMENT FURTHER ON SUBJECT.

4. WE SUSPECT THAT MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ASKED CHRISTOPHIDES TO STOP PLAYING SONG ON CBC., AND BECAUSE CHRISTOPHIDES COULD NOT SAY THIS HE FELL BACK ON AMBASSADOR AND "AMERICANS" AS SOURCE OF PRESSURE. WE HAVE HEARD THAT HE MADE SEVERAL ANXIOUS CALLS TO NEWSPAPERS AUGUST 20 TO ASK THEM NOT TO CONFIDENTIAL

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PRINT STORY BUT, AS ALWAYS IN CYPRUS, THE WORD AS OUT. WE PREDICT THAT LYSSARIDES, FRO WHOM "SONG OF THE FREE" IS ALMOST CAMPAIGN THEME SONG, WILL NO LET THIS JUICY ISSUE DIE. WE WILL HAVE TO LIVE WITH THIS BUT WE INTEND TO MAKE NO COMMENT POINTING OUT SONG'S BANNING IS INTERNAL CYPRIOT MATTER.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: MUSIC, PROPAGANDA, ANTIAMERICAN FEELING, TELEVISION BROADCASTING, RADIO BROADCASTING
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 23 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

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